Case 2916

Metablastothrix Sugonjaev, 1964 (Insecta, Hymenoptera): proposed designation of *Blastothrix* (*Metablastothrix*) *isomorpha* Sugonjaev, 1964 as the type species

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the designation of *Blastothrix* (*Metablastothrix*) *isomorpha* Sugonjaev, 1964 as the type species of the encyrtid genus *Metablastothrix* Sugonjaev, 1964. At present the type species is *Microterys truncatipennis* Ferrière, 1955 but this was based on a misidentification. *Metablastothrix* has a Holarctic distribution and the species are secondary parasitoids of some injurious coccids. Conservation of the generic name will help to ensure stability in the economically important family ENCYRTIDAE Walker, 1837.

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1. Mayr (1876, p. 697) established the genus *Blastothrix*. Its type species is *Encyrtus sericeus* Dalman, 1820 (p. 357) by subsequent designation of Ashmead (1900, p. 389). *Blastothrix* belongs to the subtribe BLASTOTRICHINA Erdös & Novicky, 1955 (p. 167) (this is the correct spelling, see p. 223 of the Code) of the tribe APHYCINI Hoffer, 1954 and now includes 24 described species. Members of this genus are primary endoparasitoids of coccids (Homoptera, COCCIDAE).

2. Ferrière (1955, p. 127) described *Microterys truncatipennis* from Germany, which parasitizes the coccid *Eulecanium franconicum* Lindinger, 1912. Hoffer (1957, p. 220) transferred Ferrière's species to *Blastothrix* Mayr, 1876. Sugonjaev (1959, p. 169; 1960, p. 378; 1962, pp. 193, 194) identified as *B. truncatipennis* specimens reared by him from the same coccid species in the Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) Province.

3. Sugonjaev (1964, p. 371) established *Metablastothrix* as a subgenus of *Blastothrix* and later Sugonjaev & Babaev (1978, p. 66) raised *Metablastothrix* to generic rank.

4. Sugonjaev (1964) originally included in *Metablastothrix* two nominal species: *Blastothrix (Metablastothrix) truncatipennis* (Ferrière), designated by him as the type species, and a new species *B. (M.) isomorpha* Sugonjaev, 1964 (p. 371) from Kazakhstan. Trjapitzin & Gordh (1978a, p. 379) transferred to *Metablastothrix* the North American species *Microterys claripennis* Compere, 1928.

5. In 1991–1992 the authors of the present application examined the type series of *Microterys truncatipennis* Ferrière, 1955 preserved in the Muséum d'Histoire naturelle, Geneva. All specimens of the type material, the female holotype (of which only legs are left), two female paratypes and one male paratype are not congeneric with the species studied by Sugonjaev (1959) and do not accord with the description and concept of *Metablastothrix*, but belong to *Blastothrix* in accordance with Hoffer's (1957) placement (see para. 2 above).

6. The type species of *Metablastothrix* was based on a misidentification and retention of the nominal species *Microterys truncatipennis* Ferrière, 1955 as type would render *Metablastothrix* Sugonjaev, 1964 a junior subjective synonym of *Blastothrix* Mayr, 1876. To preserve the current understanding and usage of the name *Metablastothrix* which is already included in some reviews and monographs (e.g. Trjapitzin & Gordh, 1978a, 1978b; Sugonjaev, 1984; Sugonjaev & Trjapitzin, 1988; Trjapitzin, 1989) it is proposed that *Blastothrix (Metablastothrix) isomorpha* Sugonjaev, 1964 be designated as its type species.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Metablastothrix* Sugonjaev, 1964 and to designate *Blastothrix (Metablastothrix) isomorpha* Sugonjaev, 1964 as the type species;
(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Metablastothrix* Sugonjaev, 1964 (gender: feminine), type species by designation in (1) above *Blastothrix (Metablastothrix) isomorpha* Sugonjaev, 1964;
(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *isomorpha* Sugonjaev, 1964, as published in the binomen *Blastothrix (Metablastothrix) isomorpha* (specific name of the type species of *Metablastothrix* Sugonjaev, 1964).

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